

School Readiness Initiative

California Children and Families Commission

Partnership in XX County

Date, 2001



Presentation Overview

- Why focus on “School Readiness”?
- What is “School Readiness”?
- What is the CCFC School Readiness Initiative?
- How can County Commissions apply (and when)?
- Who was involved in planning the initiative?
- How can we participate?

Why Invest in School Readiness?



California's children will be healthier and better prepared to reach their greatest potential in school and in life. (CCFC Vision)

Why Investments in Early Childhood Can Increase School Readiness

- A child's brain develops very rapidly in the first three years of life.
- Experience plays a significant role in brain structure and function.
- Shapes the architecture of human brain and affects cognitive, emotional and social capacities throughout life.

Why Investments in Early Childhood Can Increase School Readiness

- Early childhood offers the greatest potential return on investment.
- Early childhood interventions have been demonstrated to be cost-effective.
- Brain development and public investment are not synchronized.



* UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities

CCFC Adopted NEGP Definition of School Readiness

National Education Goals Panel (NEGP)
3 Components define School Readiness:

- Children's Readiness for School
- Schools' Readiness for Children
- Family and Community Supports and Services that Contribute to Children's Readiness for School Success

Children's Readiness for School

One Component of NEGP 'School Readiness' definition

5 Dimensions of 'readiness in children':

- Physical well-being and motor development
- Social and emotional development
- Approaches to learning
- Language development
- Cognition and general knowledge

Example of “Children’s Readiness for School”

Kids need to be immunized and have access to health care. They need to have healthy food and be well-rested so they can focus in the classroom.



Example of “Schools’ Readiness for Children”

A warm and open relationship with a teacher is viewed as a protective factor – a factor that guards against early school failure.



(“A Good Beginning – Sending America’s Children to School with the Social and Emotional Competence They Need to Succeed,” FAN, 2000)

Example of “Ready Families”

Families have the services, tools and resources they need to help prepare their children to reach their greatest potential in school.



CCFC School Readiness Initiative Builds on 3 Important Components (NEGP Definition)



How will School Readiness Programs be Funded?

- CCFC allocated \$200 Million over four years.
- Funds flow through County Commissions with eligible 'high priority' schools
- Funds allocated based on formula blending county birth rates and number of students in schools in deciles 1-3 (API) when requirements met (45 eligible counties)

How will School Readiness Programs be Funded?

- **\$1 : \$1 Cash match from County Commissions and partners after first year**
(first year has \$.50 : \$1 match incentive)
- **Minimum county allocation of \$100,000**
- **Implementation funds available to counties without match requirement**
- **Implementation Funds can be requested when County Commission is ready to submit 'intent to participate' and annual fund request**

Target Communities for CCFC School Readiness Programs

Communities served by schools with Academic Performance Index (API) in deciles 1-3, estimate:

- 1385 schools
- About 800,000 children (0-5)
- 85% low income
- 48% English Language Learners
- 75% Latino

CCFC School Readiness Programs Build on NEGP School Readiness Definition

Five Essential and Coordinated Elements for SR

- Early Care and Education
- Parenting/Family Support
- Health and Social Services
- Schools' Readiness for Children
- Infrastructure, Evaluation, and Administration

Overall SR Principles for School Readiness Programs

- Voluntary family participation
- Family focus and decision-making
- Community investment and design
- Inclusive and culturally competent
- Addresses needs of children with disabilities and other special needs
- Collaboration
- Builds on family and community assets

Overall SR Principles for School Readiness Programs

- Coordinates existing services and infrastructure
- School based or linked
- Plan with connected assessment, prioritized goals, strategies, partners, and evaluation (disaggregated)
- Comprehensive staff and volunteer training
- Results based accountability and strong evaluation
- Systems integration and design
- Standards and research based, plus promising practices

School Readiness Program Phase 1 Request for Funding

How County Commissions
(in collaboration with local partners)
apply for School Readiness Programs
Matching Funds

County Commissions describe their Program

- Provide an overview of the School Readiness Program, including communities to be served.
- What are the strengths and needs of the families and communities served by the targeted schools?
- What results are expected for children and families?

County Commissions describe their Services and Partners

- What Strategies and partners are currently in place that address the 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements”?
- What new strategies and partners will be implemented to further address or expand/enhance the 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements”?

County Commissions describe their Services and Partners

- What are the specific roles and commitments provided by the participating schools?
- How will coordination/integration of current and new services and resources for this School Readiness Program be addressed and supported?

County Commissions describe their Operations and Budget

- How has/will collaborative planning and decision making be accomplished?
- How does your staffing and professional development support the results and strategies for the 5 “Essential and Coordinated Elements” for the children and families to be served?
- What is your budget and the source and amount of your matching funds?

RFF 'Launch' Timeline

Phase 1: RFF out August 2001

Apps due Oct 15; start Dec 2001

Apps due Jan 15; start March 2002

Intent to Participate – December 2001

Phase 2 RFF out March 2002

and on: Apps due May 15; start July 2002

Quarterly application process to June 2003

How are School Readiness Programs Selected?

Steps:

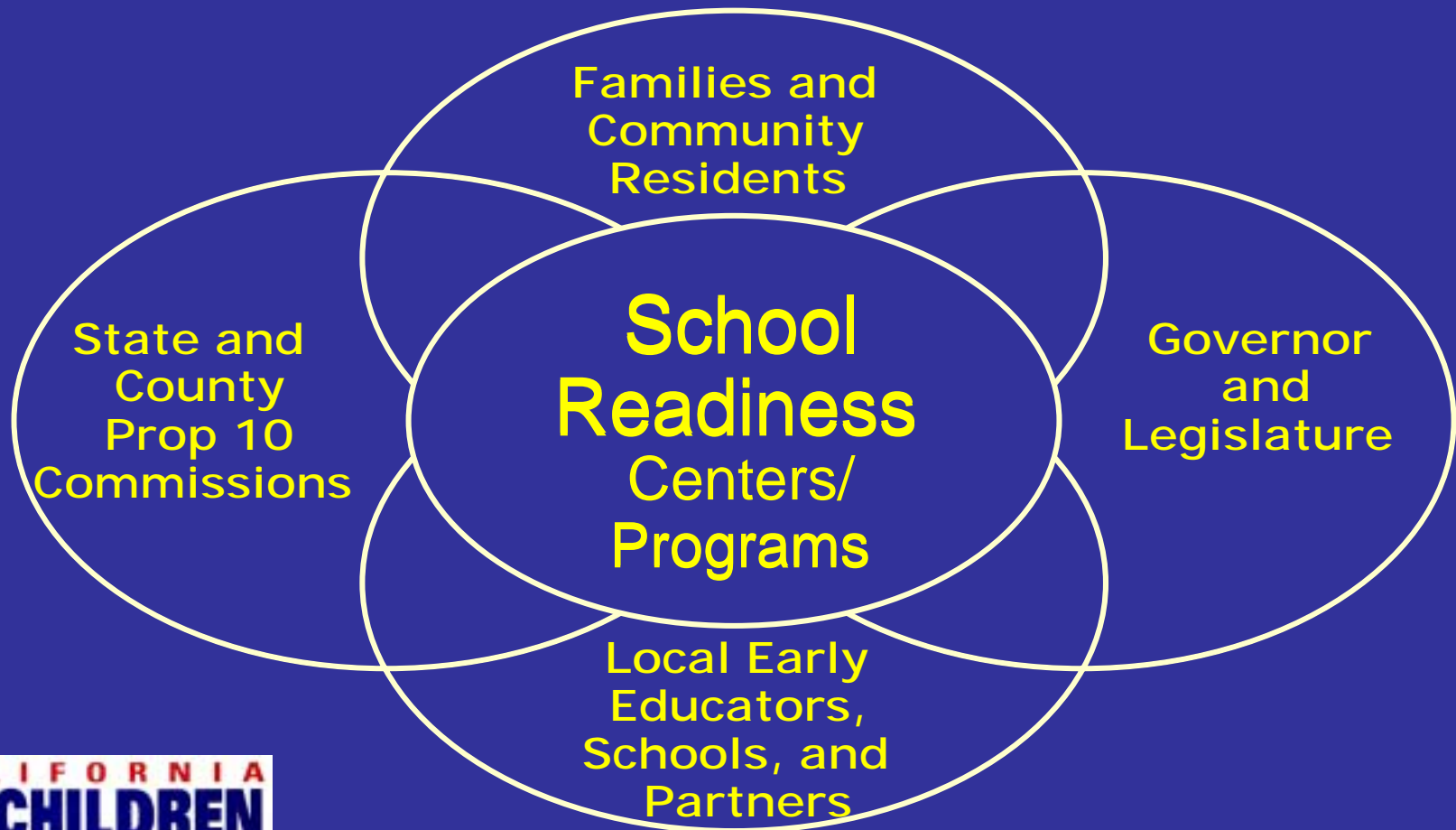
- County Commission assessment to determine if School Readiness Program is Phase 1, 2, 3
- If School Readiness Program is Phase 1, County Commission may submit application
- Review and Selection by CCFC with County Commissions and other partners as needed

Who Planned the Initiative?

CCFC School Readiness Planning Group

- County Commissions
- Advisory Committee on Diversity
- Foundations and Other Partners
- CCFC Staff

School Readiness Involves Many Partners



How School Readiness Can Work in XX County

In XX County

- Birth rate
- Number of low-performing schools
- CCFC Funds
- XX County Matching Funds



Our Target Communities

- County info here

What are the Plans in XX County?

- County info here

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